AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing voice messaging services at a handheld device comprising:

communicating with a voice messaging repository to receive a voice message file in a compressed file format at said handheld device, said received voice message file in said compressed file format comprising a compressed audio portion and an information portion, and said compressed audio portion generated by conversion from a first file format to said compressed file format;

locally storing said received voice message file; and

locally providing an interface to said user allowing said user to indicate an action to perform on said received voice message file.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving an indication of said action to perform on said received voice message file; and responsive to receiving said indication, performing said action.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said action is "play" and said performing said action further comprises:

generating an audio signal from said received voice message file; and

outputting said audio signal to an audio output device associated with said handheld device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said action is "delete" and said performing said action further comprises further communicating with said voice messaging repository to indicate a deletion of a voice message associated with said received voice message file.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said action is "forward" and said performing said action further comprises:

receiving an indication of an intended recipient of said received voice message file; and

further communicating with said voice messaging repository to transfer information identifying said intended recipient.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said information identifying said intended recipient is a telephone number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said indication is a name and said method further includes locally mapping said name to said telephone number.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

extracting, from said received voice message, information related to said received voice message; and

using said interface to present said information related to said received voice message.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said interface comprises a display for display of said information related to said received voice message.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said voice messaging repository is a desktop personal computer and said communicating with said voice messaging repository occurs over a wired connection.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said voice messaging repository is a voice messaging server and wherein said communicating with said voice messaging server occurs over a data network.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising establishing a connection to said data network.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising employing the Internet Protocol for said communicating with said voice messaging server.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising employing the Hyper-Text Transfer protocol for said communicating with said voice messaging server.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said voice messaging repository is a voice messaging server and wherein said communicating with said voice messaging server occurs over a public switched telephone network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising establishing a connection to said public switched telephone network.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising generating Dual Tone Multi-Frequency tones for said communicating with said voice messaging server.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said compressed file format is MP3 format.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, before said communicating with said voice messaging repository to receive said voice message, receiving an indication of arrival of a voice message from said voice messaging repository.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said indication of arrival includes details associated with said received voice message.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said communicating with said voice messaging repository further comprises indicating to said voice messaging repository a status of voice messages previously received at said handheld device.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein, for each of said previously received voice messages, said status is one of unplayed, played, deleted, sent and unsent.

23. (Previously Presented) A handheld device comprising:

means for communicating with a voice messaging repository to receive a voice message file in a compressed file format, said received voice message in said compressed file format comprising a compressed audio portion and an information portion, and said compressed audio portion generated by conversion from a first file format to said compressed file format;

means for locally storing said received voice message; and

means for locally providing an interface to said user allowing said user to indicate an action to perform on said received voice message.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions which, when performed by a processor in a handheld device, cause the processor to:

communicate with a voice messaging repository to receive a voice message file in a compressed file format, said received voice message in said compressed file format comprising a compressed audio portion and an information portion, and said compressed audio portion generated by conversion from a first file format to said compressed file format;

locally store said received voice message; and

locally provide an interface to said user allowing said user to indicate an action to perform on said received voice message.

25. - 26 (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A voice messaging repository comprising:

receiving a voice message;

storing said received voice message in a first file format;

converting and compressing said received voice message from said first file format to a second file format to generate a compressed audio portion;

generating a message file in said second file format, said message file comprising said compressed audio portion and an information portion stored in one or more text fields provided for in said second file format; and

transmitting said message file in said second file format.